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2002HANOI02692 - UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ0844

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
	DS-00	EAP-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	LAB-01	VCE-00	DCP-01	NSAE-00	TEST-00	USIE-00
	ASDS-00	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	/004W						

-----0429C1 061029Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HANOI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8036  
INFO AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 HANOI 002692

SIPDIS

STATE FOR S/CT FOR REAP AND EAP/BCLTV

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [VM](#) [CTERR](#)

SUBJECT: VIETNAM: 2002 ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: SECTSTATE 201772

1. EMBASSY'S RESPONSE TO REFTEL FOLLOWS IN PARAGRAPH 2.  
THE RESPONSE IS KEYED TO THE PARAGRAPHS IN REFTEL.

2.  
A) THE GVN HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE GLOBAL COALITION  
AGAINST TERRORISM AND TAKEN A NUMBER OF MEASURES AGAINST AL-  
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QAIDA. THE GVN HAS CLEARLY AND FREQUENTLY DENOUNCED  
TERRORISM DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. THE GVN  
RATIFIED FOUR ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RELATED  
TO COUNTERTERRORISM, BRINGING ITS TOTAL TO EIGHT. THE GVN  
SUPPORTED THE ADOPTION OF THE US-ASEAN COUNTERTERRORISM  
DECLARATION. AT THE UN, THE GVN DESCRIBED TERRORISM AS "A  
GLOBAL SCOURGE," ADDING THAT "ANY COUNTERTERRORISM MEASURE  
MUST COMPLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, RESPECT THE  
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE  
SOVEREIGNTY OF STATES." THE GVN HAS CONTINUED TO AGREE TO  
RECEIVE FROM THE U.S. LISTS OF SUSPECTED TERRORISTS AND  
ORGANIZATIONS, TO REVIEW ITS IMMIGRATION RECORDS, TO ADD  
THESE NAMES TO ITS WATCHLISTS, AND TO ORDER SEARCHES OF THE  
RECORDS OF ALL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR ASSETS RELATED TO  
AL-QAIDA AND OTHER TERRORIST ENTITIES. DURING 2002, THE GVN  
FURTHER UPGRADED SECURITY FROM ALREADY ELEVATED POST-  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 LEVELS AT MANY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN  
HANOI AND HO CHI MINH CITY, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE U.S., TO  
DETER TERRORISM.

B) DURING 2002 THERE WERE NO KNOWN ACTS OF DOMESTIC  
TERRORISM OR PROSECUTIONS FOR ACTS OF TERRORISM IN VIETNAM.  
THERE WERE NO KNOWN JUDICIAL ACTIONS IN VIETNAM DURING 2002  
RELATED TO ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE GVN  
CONTINUED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO PRESS FOR THE  
PROSECUTION OF INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING "TERRORIST"  
ACTS IN 2001 AGAINST VIETNAMESE INTERESTS OVERSEAS. IN  
OCTOBER 2002, A US COURT CONVICTED ONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS  
OF ATTEMPTED ARSON AND ASSAULT ON A FEDERAL OFFICER DURING  
AN ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN TAN DUNG  
IN SAN FRANCISCO IN DECEMBER 2001. THE GVN HAS DESCRIBED  
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THIS ATTEMPTED ATTACK INCIDENT AS "TERRORISM." US  
AUTHORITIES ARRESTED A US RESIDENT ON TERRORISM-RELATED  
CHARGES IN OCTOBER 2001 AND HELD HIM PENDING AN EXTRADITION  
HEARING IN NOVEMBER 2002 TO STAND TRIAL IN THAILAND FOR AN  
ATTEMPT TO BOMB THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

C) EXTRADITION: THE GVN DID NOT EXTRADITE ANY SUSPECTED  
TERRORISTS DURING THE YEAR, NOR WERE ANY REQUESTS FOR SUCH  
EXTRADITIONS MADE TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. THE GVN HAS CONTINUED  
TO PRESS FOR THE EXTRADITION TO THAILAND OF TWO INDIVIDUALS  
RESIDING IN THE U.S. THAT THE GVN ASSERTS WERE INVOLVED IN  
ATTEMPTS TO BOMB GVN INTERESTS OVERSEAS. US AUTHORITIES  
ARRESTED ONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS IN 2001 (SEE PARA B); US  
EXTRADITION HEARINGS ARE PROCEEDING.

D) THERE ARE NO SIGNIFICANT IMPEDIMENTS TO PROSECUTION OF  
SUSPECTED TERRORISTS. THERE IS NO EXTRADITION TREATY  
BETWEEN THE GVN AND THE USG. HOWEVER, AT USG REQUEST, THE  
GVN HAS DEPORTED INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF CRIMES TO THE U.S.

E) THE GVN MADE NUMEROUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONDEMNING  
TERRORISM; SOME EXAMPLES FOLLOW. IN JANUARY, COMMUNIST  
PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY NONG DUC MANH, DURING AN INTERVIEW  
WITH A WESTERN JOURNALIST, SAID THAT "WE OPPOSE TERRORISM IN  
ANY FORM." ON APRIL 28, DURING THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN PHU  
BINH STATED THAT "VIETNAM CONDEMNS ALL FORMS OF TERRORISM."  
ON MAY 10, THE MFA SPOKESPERSON "STRONGLY CONDEMNED" THE MAY  
9 BOMBINGS IN DAGESTAN. ON OCTOBER 14, AFTER THE BALI  
BOMBINGS, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESPERSON  
STATED THAT "VIETNAM RESOLUTELY CONDEMNS AND ACTS AGAINST  
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TERRORISM IN WHATEVER FORMS. . . . IT IS WORTHY TO NOTE THAT  
THE BLAST TOOK PLACE AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS  
EXERTING CONCERTED EFFORTS TO PREVENT TERRORIST MOVES." SHE  
ADDED THAT "THE BOMB BLAST IS AN INTOLERABLE CRIME." THE  
GVN SUPPORTED MISSION-SPONSORED SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL  
EVENTS. PROVINCIAL-LEVEL GVN AUTHORITIES SEIZED PRODUCTS  
BEARING USAMA BIN-LADEN'S IMAGE ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION AND  
ANNOUNCED THAT PRODUCTION OF SUCH ITEMS WAS PUNISHABLE BY  
LAW.

F) THE GVN, REPRESENTED BY PRIME MINISTER PHAN VAN KHAI,  
SUPPORTED THE ADOPTION OF THE US-ASEAN COUNTERTERRORISM  
DECLARATION AT THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN BRUNEI DURING JULY. HO  
CHI MINH CITY POLICE ESTABLISHED A "TACTICAL RESPONSE TEAM"  
THAT THEY DESCRIBED AS A COUNTERTERRORISM TOOL, ALTHOUGH ITS  
MORE IMMEDIATE USE WAS PROBABLY AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME  
GANGS. A SIMILAR TACTICAL UNIT NOW EXISTS IN HANOI,  
ALTHOUGH THE EMBASSY HAS NOT YET SEEN ANY EVIDENCE OF ACTUAL  
DEPLOYMENT OR OPERATIONS.

G) THE GVN IS NOT KNOWN TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM,  
TERRORISTS, OR TERRORIST GROUPS.

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ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00
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	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-02	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/004W

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R 061013Z NOV 02  
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8037  
INFO AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH CITY

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STATE FOR S/CT FOR REAP AND EAP/BCLTV

H) THE GVN HAS NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORTED A TERRORIST-  
SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM-SPECIFIC ISSUE.

I) THE GVN TOOK A MORE SERIOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS  
COUNTERTERRORISM FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF TERRORIST CELLS  
IN FELLOW ASEAN MEMBERS SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA EARLY IN THE  
YEAR. THE GVN HAS BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE TRIAL OF  
INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN THE ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER NGUYEN TAN DUNG IN SAN FRANCISCO IN DECEMBER 2001.  
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THE GVN HAS DEEMED THIS A TERRORIST ACT.

J) THE GVN HAS COOPERATED WITH THE USG IN A NUMBER OF  
COUNTERTERRORISM AREAS. THE STATE BANK OF VIETNAM HAS  
ISSUED INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL STATE, PRIVATE, FOREIGN AND JOINT  
VENTURE BANKS AND BRANCHES TO SEARCH FOR ASSETS RELATED TO  
NAMED ENTITIES ON LISTS PROVIDED BY THE USG, ALTHOUGH IT  
LACKS AN EFFECTIVE MECHANISM FOR REPORTING RESULTS OF THESE  
SEARCHES. THE GVN HAS COOPERATED WITH THE US CUSTOMS  
SERVICE'S OPERATION GREEN QUEST. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS HAS AGREED THAT THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY  
(MPS) WOULD CHECK IMMIGRATION RECORDS AGAINST LISTS OF  
SUSPECTED TERRORISTS PROVIDED BY THE USG. AT USG REQUEST,  
MPS HAS PROVIDED A HIGHLY VISIBLE SECURITY PRESENCE AROUND  
USG FACILITIES. HOWEVER, IN ONE CASE IN SEPTEMBER, IT TOOK  
SEVERAL DAYS TO PROVIDE A SATISFACTORY SECURITY PRESENCE AT  
ONE FACILITY.

K) PRIOR TO 2001, THE INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF  
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WAS NOT A MAJOR COMPONENT OF THE  
BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. HOWEVER, SINCE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001,  
THE GVN HAS COOPERATED IN A NUMBER OF WAYS WITH THE USG

EFFORTS TO INVESTIGATE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR COMMITTING  
TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST US CITIZENS AND INTERESTS. THE GVN  
HAS AGREED TO CONDUCT CHECKS OF IMMIGRATION RECORDS ON LISTS  
OF NAMES OF TERRORISTS WHO MAY HAVE TRANSITED THROUGH  
VIETNAM. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE ALSO GENERALLY  
RESPONDED PROMPTLY TO USG REQUESTS FOR CHECKING THE  
BONAFIDES OF PASSPORTS AND VISAS, ESPECIALLY WHEN TIPPED OFF  
THAT THE PASSPORT HOLDERS ARE BEHAVING SUSPICIOUSLY. THE  
GVN HAS CONTRIBUTED INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT TO US EFFORTS TO  
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IDENTIFY AND SUSPEND FINANCIAL ASSETS OF TERRORISTS AND  
TERRORIST GROUPS.

EXCEPT THE RECEIPT OF SEVERAL SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES --  
EVENTUALLY CONFIRMED TO BE HARMLESS -- MAILED BOTH  
DOMESTICALLY AND FROM OVERSEAS, THERE HAVE BEEN NO ACTS OF  
TERRORISM COMMITTED AGAINST US CITIZENS OR INTERESTS IN  
VIETNAM FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS. THE GVN HAS PROVIDED  
INCREASED POLICE PRESENCE AT USG FACILITIES AND DEVELOPED  
MEASURES TO RESPOND TO SPECIFIC THREAT SITUATIONS. THE GVN  
HAS RESPONDED HELPFULLY AND PROMPTLY TO ANALYZE THE CONTENTS  
OF SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES. HOWEVER, GVN RESPONSE TIMES TO  
OTHER POTENTIALLY THREATENING SITUATIONS HAVE VARIED. IN  
THE BEST CASE, POLICE RESPONDED WITHIN LESS THAN FIVE  
MINUTES. IN ANOTHER CASE INVOLVING A DIFFERENT POTENTIAL  
THREAT AT A DIFFERENT FACILITY, CLEARLY THE LOCAL POLICE DID  
NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY RESOURCES AT THEIR IMMEDIATE  
DISPOSAL, NOR WERE THEY FAMILIAR WITH HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS  
TYPE OF THREAT. CALLING IN THE REQUIRED SPECIALISTS TOOK  
THREE HOURS, AND COORDINATION AMONG THE VARIOUS GVN OFFICES  
INVOLVED WAS SLOW. THE SPECIALISTS THEMSELVES WERE  
PROFESSIONALLY COMPETENT, BUT LACKED ANY PROTECTIVE  
GEAR/EQUIPMENT.

1L. SEE PARAGRAPH K.  
BURGHARDT

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